

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing a reply to a dispatch call transmitted by a first radio, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 (a) receiving the dispatch call at a second radio; and
 - (b) transmitting a preprogrammed voice message by the second radio in response to step (a).
- 10 2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein step (b) is performed automatically.
3. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the voice message transmitted in step (b) is selected from amongst a plurality of voice messages stored in the second radio.
- 15 4. A method as defined in claim 3, wherein the second radio stores a record of the voice message that was transmitted.
5. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein the record of the voice message
20 transmitted is stored in a recent calls list.

6. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the user of the second radio manually selects the preprogrammed message that is transmitted in step (b).
- 5 7. A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the preprogrammed message is transmitted once the radio user activates a Push-To-Talk (PTT) switch located in the second radio.
- 10 8. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the preprogrammed message transmitted in step (b) is a voice message that is recorded by the user of the second radio.
- 15 9. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the voice message transmitted in step (b) is selected from amongst a plurality of voice messages stored in the second radio and the voice message transmitted in step (b) is automatically transmitted and selected given the identification number of the first radio.

10. A radio that can transmit and receive dispatch calls, comprising:

a receiver;

a transmitter coupled to the receiver;

5 a memory coupled to the receiver, stored within the memory is at least one preprogrammed voice message; and

responsive to a dispatch call being received at the receiver that was transmitted by a second radio, using the transmitter to transmit the at least one preprogrammed voice message to the second radio.

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11. A radio as defined in claim 10, wherein the at least one preprogrammed voice message is automatically transmitted by the transmitter upon the dispatch call being received at the receiver.

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12. A radio as defined in claim 10, wherein the at least one preprogrammed voice message is transmitted after the dispatch call has been received at the receiver and after it has been manually selected.

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13. A radio as defined in claim 10, wherein the radio can receive both dispatch calls and cellular calls.

14. A radio as defined in claim 13, wherein the at least one preprogrammed message is recorded by the user of the radio.

15. A radio that can receive both half-duplex dispatch and full-duplex cellular calls, the radio comprising:

a memory, stored within the memory are a plurality of preprogrammed

5 voice messages;

a transmitter;

a receiver coupled to the transmitter and memory; and

the transmitter automatically transmits one of the plurality of preprogrammed voice messages in response to the receiver receiving a dispatch call if an automatic reply mode has been selected.

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16. A radio as defined in claim 15, wherein the radio user instead of selecting the automatic reply mode places the radio in a manual response mode which allows the radio user to select from amongst the plurality of preprogrammed voice messages the message the user wants to transmit in response to receiving the dispatch call.

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17. A radio as defined in claim 16, wherein instead of having one of the plurality of preprogrammed voice messages being automatically transmitted in response to receiving the dispatch call the user of the radio inactivates the automatic reply mode and can respond to the dispatch call and begin communications with the radio that sent the dispatch call.

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18. A radio as defined in claim 17, wherein the radio user manually selects one of the plurality of preprogrammed voice messages and transmit the manually selected message in response to receiving the dispatch call.

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19. A radio as defined in claim 15, wherein the plurality of preprogrammed voice messages are programmed by the radio user.

20. A radio as defined in claim 15, wherein the plurality of preprogrammed voice message are labeled and are selected using a menu.

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